

Changing Roles:

Wildland-Urban Interface

Professional Development Program



NATURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES face numerous challenges in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) and are searching for solutions. Communities are growing rapidly, landowners' management goals are varied and at times conflict, and residents may not understand the benefits of resource management. As a result, risks to environmental quality and human quality of life are becoming more apparent. To help meet these needs, the Southern Group of State Foresters led a partnership with InterfaceSouth

of the U.S. Forest Service, the School of Forest Resources and Conservation of the University of Florida, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a WUI Professional Development Program. This program provides state and federal natural resource agencies and other organizations with a set of flexible resources to conduct their own in-service training programs, aimed toward building skills and tools to successfully tackle WUI issues.

Module Topics



Module 1: Wildland-Urban Interface Issues and Connections—Introduces participants to key wildland-urban interface issues and how they are interconnected. Explains why natural resource agencies should focus on interface issues.



Module 2: Managing Interface Forests—Provides tools and knowledge for effectively managing fragmented forests in the WUI. Includes characteristics of interface landowners; practicing silviculture at the interface; small-scale harvesting systems; managing for wildlife, fire, and visual and recreational amenities; enterprise opportunities for landowners; and forest cooperatives.



Module 3: Participating in Land-Use Decisions—Explains land-use decision-making tools, the role of natural resource professionals in the decision-making and land-use planning process, and how natural resource professionals can get involved.



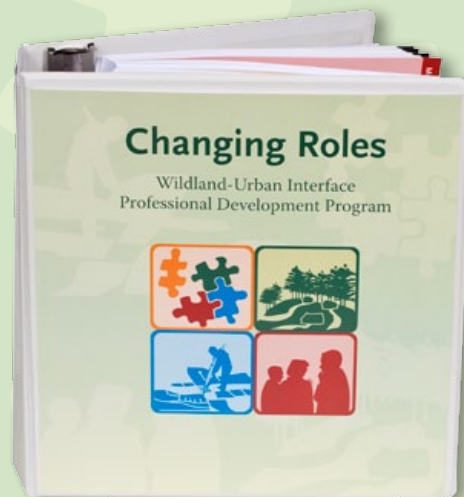
Module 4: Communicating with Interface Residents and Leaders—Discusses key tips for effective communication with WUI residents and community leaders, beginning with the need to understand the audience, strategies for effectively sharing information and planning programs, and working to resolve conflict and support changes in behavior.

Program Resources

The modules are extremely flexible and can be modified and used in a variety of combinations to create training programs of variable lengths to address the training needs of each agency/organization. Each module contains:

- **Trainer's Guides**—Introduce the topic with key points for training emphasis, specific examples, ideas for presentation, references, and suggestions for how to combine the case studies, fact sheets, and exercises. Suggestions for locating guest speakers and field trip sites are included where applicable.
- **Exercises**—Enable participants to discuss and apply what they are learning. Exercises can be modified to suit the group size; a number of learning formats are provided.
- **Fact Sheets**—Outline important points, strategies, and information for participants if they want more background material. They can also be distributed to other audiences.
- **Presentations**—Enable trainers to easily present background information and introduce case studies and exercises.

Additional resources that can be found on-line include the case studies, a resource list, a DVD, the Changing Roles listserv and quarterly e-bulletin, and evaluation questions.



The Changing Roles program resources can be found on the InterfaceSouth Web site at:
<http://www.interfacesouth.org/changingroles>

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